



Seizing Opportunity: Forestry & the BioEconomy

September 20-21, 2007
Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge, Grand Rapids, MN

A conference jointly sponsored by Iron Range Resources and Blandin Foundation

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

September 20, Day 1

- 12:00 p.m. **Golf Scramble**
- 2:00 **Sugar Hills Forest Legacy Tour with Art Norton, Itasca Field Representative, The Nature Conservancy**
- 5:30 **Registration and Cocktail reception among Exhibits**
- 6:30 **Welcome and Dinner - Sandy Layman, Commissioner, Iron Range Resources, and Jim Hoolihan, President, Blandin Foundation**
- 7:00 **Keynote presentation - Opportunities in the Emerging Bioeconomy: Seeing the Forest Through a Different Lens**
Dr. Robert Elde, Dean, College of Biological Sciences, University of Minnesota, will discuss how new developments in the bioeconomy could lead to opportunities for the forest industry.
- 8:00 **Social hour**

September 21, Day 2

- 7:30 a.m. **Breakfast**
- 8:00 **Opening Remarks - Sandy Layman and Jim Hoolihan**
- 8:10 **Introductions and Agenda Overview - Bernadine Joselyn, Director of Public Policy & Engagement, Blandin Foundation**
- 8:15 **Scene Setter: Minnesota's Position in the Big Picture: Imagining the Possibilities**
Dr. Shri Ramaswamy, Department Head, Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering, University of Minnesota, will review the key findings of a Dovetail Partners, Inc. commissioned research report, *An Assessment of the Potential for Bioenergy and Biochemicals Production for Forest-derived Biomass in Minnesota*.

- 8:40 State of the State's Forest BioMass Resource: What is the Resource? Who Owns It?**
Bill Berguson, Program Director, Natural Resources Research Institute, presents key findings from his commissioned research describing how much forest resource is available in Minnesota for this emerging industry, where it's located and who owns it, and examining Minnesota's - and the industry's - competitive advantage.
- 9:05 Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Regional and Environmental Perspectives on What's Already Going On in Minnesota**
Moderator: Dave Zumeta, Executive Director, Minnesota Forest Resource Council, will present environmental impacts/biomass harvesting guidelines and resource competition challenges. Energy sector officials will discuss their on-the-ground experience with resource procurement and mandate compliance and a senior policy advisor from Wisconsin's DNR will add a regional perspective.
Panelists:
Allison Hellman, Senior Analyst, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Terry Leoni, General Manager, Virginia Public Utilities
Eric Norberg, Senior Vice President, Strategy and Planning, Minnesota Power
- 10:15 Networking Break**
- 10:35 The Biggest Bang: Forestry and Biochemicals**
Alan Rudie, Supervisory Research Chemist, USDA Forest Products Lab, addresses the implications and opportunities for the forest products industry of biomass potential as a significant source for a wide array of industrial chemicals and chemical feedstocks.
- 11:15 Governor Tim Pawlenty, Securing a Clean Energy Future: Minnesota's Golden Opportunity**
- 11:45 Highest and Best (Sustainable) Use, Part I: Destination 2025: Strategy Model for Minnesota's Renewable Energy Economy**
Dale Wahlstrom, CEO, and **Amy Johnson**, BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota, will deliver an overview summary of the methodology behind and scenario-building prowess of a dynamic modeling tool currently being developed to help inform efforts to reach Minnesota's new renewable energy policy goals.
- 12:00 Highest and Best (Sustainable) Use, Part II: Economic Considerations**
Dean Current, Department of Forestry, University of Minnesota, focuses on the economic and environmental implications and opportunities of carbon credit markets for forest industry and forest management.
- 12:15 Lunch served**
- 12:45 Luncheon Presentation: Bio-liquid Fuels: A National and Regional Perspective**
Ted Wegner, Assistant Director, U.S. Forest Products Lab (Madison), describes the state of biorefinery technologies and comments on opportunities for Minnesota from a national and regional perspective.

- 1:30** **Moderated Participant Discussion** led by **Shri Ramaswamy**
- 1:45** **Break**
- 2:00** **Seizing Opportunity Part I: Maximizing Community Benefits**
Drawing on experiences from the wind energy sector and innovation in cellulosic ethanol production technology, panel members will explore community wealth creation and retention implications of different ownership and production models in the renewable energy sector.
Moderator: Jerry Nagel, President, Northern Great Plains, Inc.
Panelists:
John Hurley, Senior Research Advisor, University of North Dakota, Energy & Environmental Research Center, will describe the design, development and use of a mobile biomass conversion unit that turns wood into liquid fuel.
Dan Juhl, DanMar & Associates, Woodstock, Minnesota, owner of Woodstock Wind Farm (which produces over 29,000 MWh per year), will talk about how his experience developing community-based wind farms can be adapted to the forestry sector.
- 2:30** **Seizing Opportunity Part II: Attracting Private Capital**
Moderator: Doug Cameron, Chief Scientific Officer, Khosla Ventures, Menlo Park, California, will interview a panel of investors, asking: “How do we capitalize on our opportunities to attract investment?” “What factors influence investors’ decisions?”
Panelists:
Robert Elde, Initiative on Renewable Energy and the Environment and Dean, College of Biological Sciences, University of Minnesota
Hemant Taneja, Partner, General Catalyst Partners, Cambridge, MA
- 3:00** **Participant Discussion with members of both panels**
Moderator: Robert Elde will facilitate a dialogue with participants to explore opportunities for public-private partnerships and other collaborative approaches to investment finance.
- 3:30** **Reflections: Opportunities and Challenges**
Dave Epperly, Director of Forestry, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and **Allison Hellman**, Senior Policy Advisor, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, reflect on: 1) the most exciting opportunities discussed today; 2) the biggest challenges. **Bernadine Joselyn** will facilitate a dialogue with the audience.
- 3:50** **Advancing the Agenda**
Conference organizers describe next steps and opportunities for input for conference participants.
- 4:00** **Adjourn**